

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 30, 44, 45, 48-52 and 57-79 are pending. The present Response amends Claims 30, 44, 45, 48-52, 57 and 58; cancels Claims 31-43, 46, 47 and 53-56 without prejudice or disclaimer; and newly submits Claims 61-79 without introducing any new matter.

The Office Action objected to the Abstract of the specification; rejected Claims 30, 43-46, 48, and 57-60 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Simmons (U.S. Patent No. 4,943,094); and rejected Claims 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Simmons. In addition, the Office Action objected to Claims 47, 49 and 59, but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the objection to the specification, the Abstract is amended as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

The indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. In response to the indication of allowable subject matter, amended Claim 30 incorporates all of the subject matter previously recited in Claim 47 as well as intervening Claims 43 and 46; new Claim 61 corresponds to Claim 49 rewritten in independent form, including all of the subject matter previously recited in base Claim 30 and intervening Claims 43 and 48; and new Claim 71 corresponds to Claim 50 rewritten in independent form, including all of the subject matter previously recited in base Claim 30 and intervening Claims 43 and 48.

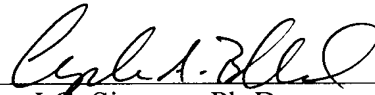
Accordingly, Claims 30, 61, 71, and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 30, 44, 45, 48-52 and 57-79 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place the present application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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